DAILY EVENING STAR.

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BY JOSEPH B. TATE.

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EXCOURA JEMENT TO AMERICAN POETIC TALENT! \$500 PREMIUM.

MPRESSED as I am with the controlling influence which is exercised by the fine arts upon the direcnot nel destroy of human aff des, it has given me inmit pleasure to wit ess the boun iful manner in shigh, from ti ne to time, painting and status y have en encouraged and rewarded by the Councils of the

Bat, while this acknowl dgment is due to the diseming and worthy patrous of these noble arts, it is an equal source of humi i dien and sorrow to behold in apparent a pathy and indifferen e with which they at regard the i comparably more valuable creamas of poetry.

free them adorn the walls of the Capitol with the goal of revelations of the pencil and decorate the his grounds with the costiy chef d'œuvres of the miser, is an omen of good whi h will be hailed and panded by all as a casering pledge of the progress refinement. But, whilst they invish their thousals upon these immobile p oducts of canviss and marb e and bronz , they offer no reward for the more cuited, more enduring and renowned ovations of he No f-sie ing hand from these high places has er yet invited the Fromethan fire of poetry to ani nate the history of our country, which, with all its rate iy of form and onder of proportion, lies as leep matth humble vault o Mount Vernon, ready to ering into life and beau y at the first kindling touch this; nial inspiration.

it surel, were a work of supererogation to introduce peo f. that crow I the records o' the past to show or ar above all o her s ands the "divine art" of y. What are all the paintings, statues, and regaof Versailles of Font inbleau, and the Tuileries, apared with the "Marseines Hymn?" What the king y penoply of gold and gems heaped up in the Town of London; what the cottee ions of the Royal Arabay, or e.en the time hallowed shrines of Westmater Abbey, when compared with the songs of Baras, and Diblen, and Campbell? Or what has the world that we would take in exchange for " Hail Counbit" and the "Star-Spangled Banner?" Well micht the British statesman exclaim, "let me but write the ballats of a nation, and I care not who

As far as the living, breathing man is above the cold sensate marble that is made to represent him; as ir as the re hart skies of summer are above the perish the convass to which the pai ter has transferred their feeble resemblance, so far is poetry above all other arts that have their mission to console and elevate and inspire the immostal mind of man.

In view of the c facts, and considering the lumentable paucity of patriodic songs in my distinguished and believed country, and with the hope of being the tamble mea is of a proper public f et ng upon this ine ting subject, I have been induced to offer, and hereby off r. the sum of five numbed dollars as a rize for the best National Poem, Ode, or Epic.

The rules which will govern the payment of this st I have selected (without consulting them) the

wing persons to act as judges or arbiters of the

e thus offered, namely: In Preside t of the United States. o. A o P. Mimolson of Tenness e.

d Chas. Summer, of U. S. Senate in K M. f. Hunter, do a. Jas C. Jones,

land R Chauter, of U.S. House Representatives. on Addison a hit;

lim. Tuos H Bayly,

do D. F. Disney, do do Hon. John P. Kennedy, Secretary of the Navy. br. John W. C. Evans, of New Jersey.

or Tho: Saunders. Jeph dales,

er. K. A mstrong, of the Press. br.G. Bailey,

W W. Saton, It feeer Heary, of the smithsocian Institution.

an Solden, tate freesur r of the United States. ev C M. Bat er, Epise pai Charch.

TR E. Gure , Pro-byterian Church.

Rr. . . R szell. Methodi t E isdopal Church.

lev. Mr Doselan, Cathoric Church. If These gentl men, or any three of them, are y autho ized to m et at he Smithsonian Insti on the second Monday of December next, at such t as they may app int, and there ir ce d to read

eximine the various poems which may have e eived, and to determine which of them is meritorious and deserving of the prize. And I bind myse f to pay the sum aforementioned with, to who ever they shall present to me as the a who has written within the time prescribed the ational Patrioti: Poem, and upon the representhat he or she is an American citizen.

All communications must be seat to me at glea post-paid) befor t e first Monday in De

tity of Washington.

oth. No noem with be considered as subject to this Tize which sh Il not have been written subsequent this date, and received before the first Mond y in R. W. LATHAM. WASHINGTON, FEB. 10, 1853.

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BARRELLVILLE, ALLEGANY COUNTY, (Md.) } May 4, 1852.

To Messrs. Mortimer & Mowbray:

DEAR SIRS: In justice to Dr. Hampton's Vegetable Tincture, I wish to it form you that I was taken sick on the 3d day of January last, with an affection of the stomach, bowels, and kidneys. I was attended by four eminent physicians for more than two months-all to little or no effect. I had some knowledge of the great virtue in Hampton's Tincture from one bottle which my wife had taken two years

I came to the conclusion that I would take no moremedicine from my physicians, but try the Tincture; and I am happy to inform you I had not taken it (wo days before I felt its powerful influence upon my stomach. I have continued using the Tincture and am now able to leave my room, and can eat any common diet without much inconvenience or pressure on my stomach.

The afflicted or their friends are daily visiting me, to learn of the great virtue there is in this Tincture of Hampton's.

I expect to send you several certificates in a few days one especially from a young lady who has been confined to her room twelve months, with a disease of he head, affecting the brain. E. W. HALL. Respectfully yours,

On the permancy of the cure hear him. Still

another letter from the above!

BARRELLVILLE, ALLEGANY COUNTY, (Md.,)

October 13, 1852. Messrs. Mortimer & Mowbray:

DEAR SIRS: I am happy to inform you that this day finds me in the enjoyment or good health, by the ose of your Hampton's Tincture and the blessing f God. I am enabled to pursue my daily avocations as usual, and I have a great desire that the afflicted should know the great curativ powers of the

1 am with respect, yours, E. W. HALL.

THE ALMOST MIRACULOUS CURES made by Hampton's Vegetal le Tincture on our most respectable citizens-men well known and tried-we challenge the world to show anything on record in medicine to equal it. Many hundreds who have felt its healing powers hear the same testimony.

BALTIMORE, July 6, 1852., Messrs. Mortimer & Mowbray: Gents: Last September I was attacked with ervsipelas, from which a dreadful ulcer formed on my right leg. Getting bet ter of this, last November I took a deep cold, which led to what my physician told me was bilious pleurisy, which left me with a constant, deeply seated. and painful cough, having no rest day or night, and constantly throwing up from my lungs a thick matter. I became much emaciated, growing weaker every day, and keeping my bed the greater part of the time. My friends thought 1 had the consumption, and at times I was also of the same opinion. At this stage of my disease, after having tried many and various remedies, without success, a friend advised me to try DR. HAMPTON'S VEGETABLE TINCURE, and procured me a bottle, which I now pronounce the greatest medicine I ever took. Before I had taken half the contents of one bottle I felt much imt with a full and complete conveyance of proved; and now, having taken but two bottes, my Wright to me and my heirs and assigns for | cough and pains have entirely left me, and I am en ibled to attend to business. I can truly say that. with the blessing of God, I have been restored to is this sent to me as soon as practicable, for the | the health I now enjoy by the use of this most inst trice, and to give the proceeds to the poor of valuable medicine. Yours, WESLEY ROCK,

Schroeder, near Saratoga street.

FORTSMOUTH, (Va.,) Aug. 18, 1851. Mr. J. E. Boush-Dear Sir: Whi e I am in general opposed to Patent Medicines, candor compeis me to state that I have great confidence in the virtues of Hampton's Vegetable Tincture. For several months past I have used it in my family, and in Dy spepsia, loss of appetite, oizziness, and general debility, with entire success. So far as my experience extends, therefore, I take pleasure in recommending it to the afflicted as a safe and efficient remedy. VERNON ESKRIDGE.

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manently cured by the use of one bottle of the Elix Many persons are afil cted with uneasy and painful feelings after eating, in all such cases the use of the Elixer, according to dire tion will give the high-

est satisfaction, giving relief immediately and in a few days effecting a permane t cure. Infants teething are often attacked with spells of vomiting. The Elix ron occasions of this character is the mother's best friend as a few light doses restores the stomach to its wonted healthy tone. In short no individual or family should be without

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plud pour up I de come to the title

DAILY EVENING STAR.

[For the Evening Star.] TO MISS A-H-.

Sweet girl, may life's gard n of liles and roses, Bloom on in thy heart, in life's innocent morn; May life's sky be clear, where no cloud interpo es, Nor ever one rose be al ied to a thorn.

May thy kind heart be fill'd with every pleasure; May thy hopes and thy joy never know a de ay; But religion's pure sun shed its rays on thy trea-

Until that fair form shall have faded away.

May the earth in its sweetness present to thy view, The fair flowers of happiness still in their bloom; And thy sky ever clear with cerulean blue, Light thee on in peace to the verge of the tomb.

May a halo of j y ever circle thy head, And a wreath of pure frien Iship wind round thy dear heart.

The ange s of love their pure influence shed Around thee, until thy last sigh shall deport.

May God's hand e'er protect thee f.om sorrow or Guide thy mind through the sands of life's iguc-

rant paths; May you ne'er have a corrow to cause thee a tear, And e-cape the dread verdict of terror and wrath. This I wish thee and many a kind thought beside-

I wish thee a life full of friendship and love; That thy ocean of joy may be full of love's tid. Until thy pure soul is wafted above.

CHILDE HAROLD

A STRANGE GHOST STORY.

We find in the Commercial Journal of Pittsburg the following interesting ghost

that have ever come under my own observation, is a tissue of persecutions inflicted upon some persons of my acquaintance, during their late residence in one of the beaut ful suburbs of this town. The father of the family is a professional man, and well known in the literary and scientific world; a large, noble-looking, thoroughly Saxon frame, in which the ample development of flesh and blood would seem to be a sufficient guarantee against any undue activity of the imagination. The wife, on the contrary, is of a highly sensitive, nervous temperament, though possessed of a clear, sound mind, and great calmness of judgment. About two years ago, the grandmother of my friend (whem, for convenience, I will call Smith,) was taken ill of a malady that terminated, after a few months, in her death. The old lady was of a very affectionate, hospitable nature, excessively fond of Mr. Smith and his family, and had a way of getting wine and cake for any one of them, whenever they came to see her.

"During the whole period of illness, Mr. Smith's household was kept in constant torment through the unaccountable noises and other manifestations that went on. Raps were heard in all the rooms, doors would open without any visible agency, and this during the day; while, at night, steps would be heard going up and down stairs, though no one could be seen. On one occasion, one of the children saw a hand coming out of the wall of the room, and beckoning her; and again at night, felt a hand stroke her face as she lay in bed; all of which frightened the poor little soul to such a degree that she had a severe illness in consequence. But though these things were going on through the house, frightening the children and servants out of their wits, and puzzling and distressing the parents, it was in their bed room that the strangest noises were heard. Night after night my friends were awakened by the peculiar footall of the old grandmother, stepping to ward their bed; the jingling of glasses on a tray being heard with the utmost distinctness at the same time, and forcibly suggesting the idea that the aged dame, with her usual hospitality, was bringing them the accustomed offering of cake and wine.

"I have heard my old grandmother's singular step, and the clear jingle and ring of her wine glasses," said Mr. Smith, when recounting these odd things to me, "as distinctly in the dead of night, as ever I heard it when it when at her house. And my wife heard it too, though our door was locked, and every one in the house abed and asleep." And this, it must be remembered, for months before the old lady's death! It must be remarked, however, that the old lady was constantly talking of her grand children and great grand children, longing to see them, and was often heard to say to her attendants, "It really seems to me as though I did see those dear children some. times, as though my mind really went away to them, so much do I desire it."

After her leath, the troublesome manifestations went on more vigorously than ever; the most silly and perplexing things constantly occurring. If the cook locked up a pie in the larder over night, it would be found intact in the middle of the kitchen floor next morning; and so on; all the members of the household sharing in the annoyances. The child who had been the most tormented, (the old lady's favorite) now went to visit a maiden aunt, who lived some miles away; and this lady assure t me, that for three nights she had the most choking consciouness of the old woman's being beside her pillow bending over her, and trying to make herself felt by her, Miss Smith resisting the attempt on her part with might and main, and repelling the encroaching sphere with thewhole force of her will, and which repulsion the unwelcome pertinacity of the departed aroused in her mind. Just then Mr. and Mrs. Smith were visited by a clairvoyant, who immedi-"Among the oldest things of this kind ately declared that the old lady was in the house, and that being of a very worldly turn of mind, she was trying to get into communication with them, to give directions respecting the disposal of some of her property.

While the clairvoyant was speaking and describing the silly doings of the old lady, Miss Smith happened to come in from the country, and called at her brother's. "You say grandmama is in this house, do you?" said she, addressing the clairvoyant; "but I should like you to ask her where she has been these last three nights, and what she has been doing." "Why," replied the clairvoyant, "you ought to know that better than anybody else, for she says she has spent the last three nights at your bed side, trying her best to make you see or hear her, and that you have fought her off so hard she could not come near you, and is dreadfully Lurt at you for using her so unkindly." "Well," responded Miss Smith, "I wish you would tell her that I will not have her come tormenting me; and that she may as well save herself the trouble of trying again, for I will resist her with all the force of my being whenever she tries to come near me."

The clairvoyant then remarked, "You had little Lucy in bed with you; it was the presence of her favorite that attracted the old lady, and if you don't wish to have her bothering you again, I advise you to send the child home." The child was, in fact, sleeping with her sunt, though Miss Smith had not mentione I either that circumstance or the annoying scene of the presence of the old lady; she sent her niece home, and was no more troubled. Meantime the Smiths were so constantly worriel, not only by the pre ence of the grandmother, but apparently by that of other invisibles which she brought with her, that they gave up their house at a considerable pecuviary sacrifice, (having it on a lease,) and left for suburb of London, where they still reside. This change, and the attention which they have since been able to pay to the old lady's affairs, and in which they have endeavored, as far as practicable, to satisfy her wishes, seem at last to have delivered them from this disagreeable obtrusion, and up to this time they have been free from annoyance.

When parratives of this kind come to one direct from one's own int mate friends-persons whose evidence one would receive unhesitatingly on any other subject-they certainly give rather a rough jog to one's incredulity; but though their interest necessarily diminishes with every remove from the first speakers, perhaps this account, which I have had repeatedly from various members of the family in question, may not be uninteresting to your readers, at a time when facts of this nature, or what purport to be such, are occupying so large a share of public attention. The original de bas attime